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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/820,759	04/09/2004	Tomohiro Iino	016907-1655	8793
22428	7590	10/20/2004	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER				TRAN, HOAN H
SUITE 500				ART UNIT
3000 K STREET NW				PAPER NUMBER
WASHINGTON, DC 20007				2852

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/820,759	IINO, TOMOHIRO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	<i>He</i>
	Hoan H. Tran	2852	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 May 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 2-10 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 2-4 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 5-9 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 10 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 09 April 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04/09/2004.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujishiro et al. ['973] in view of Kasahara et al. ['598]

Fujishiro et al. disclose an image forming apparatus [Fig. 20] comprising an image carrier [1], an exposure device [3] positioned below the image carrier, a plurality of developing devices [42Y-42K] each having a developing roller [43Y-43K] for developing the latent image formed on the image carrier by conventional contact or non-contact development [Col. 7, lines 3-5], a revolver [4] which holds the plurality of developing devices and moving each developing roller of the developing devices to the developing position by rotating about a shaft [0], a support frame which rotatably supports the shaft of the revolver [Fig. 26A], an intermediate transfer member [5] which is in contact with the image carrier at a top portion of the image carrier in a vertical position, and a sheet transfer device [Col. 15, lines 30-35]. However, Fujishiro et al. do not disclose a position device.

Kasahara et al. disclose an image forming apparatus comprising a rotary developing device including a position device [Col. 7, lines 12-37].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to provide the image forming apparatus disclosed by Fujishiro et al. with a position device as taught by Kasahara et al. for the purpose of producing a toner image of desirable quality.

3. Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujishiro et al. in view of Kasahara et al. as applied to claims 5-7 above, and further in view of Suzuki ['232].

Fujishiro et al., as modified by Kasahara et al., disclose the claimed invention except for the sheet transfer direction at the transfer point is vertical.

Suzuki discloses an image forming apparatus having a sheet transfer direction at the transfer point in vertical direction [Fig. 1].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the image forming apparatus disclosed by Fujishiro et al., as modified by Kasahara et al., having the sheet transfer direction at the transfer point in vertical direction as taught by Suzuki for the purpose of forming images at an increased speed.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 2-4 are allowed.

5. Claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoan H. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-2141. The examiner can normally be reached from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Arthur Grimley can be reached at (571) 272-2136. The central office fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



HHT
October 16, 2004

HOAN TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER